

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated April 3, 2007. Claims 1 and 3-19 are pending.

Claims 1 and 14

Claims 1 and 14 stand rejected under Section 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by each of Yoda and Shingo. These Section 102(e) rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 14 as amended each require that “*tip portions of the upper sealing region and the lower sealing region are formed in a bent fashion so as to be inclined toward a groove recess, and wherein a distance between said tip portions is substantially the same as or is somewhat less than a thickness of the edge portion of the solar cell module body or bodies.*” For example support, see [0044] of the instant specification. For example and without limitation, paragraph [0044] of the instant specification explains that “upper sealing region 11 and lower sealing region 12 are disposed so as to open somewhat to the outside therefrom at either side from edge portions 13a, 13a of side sealing region 13, and tip portions 11a and 12a are formed in bent fashion so as to be inclined toward each other, i.e., toward groove recess 14 . . . Distance T between these two tip portions 11a and 12a is roughly the same as or is somewhat less than the thickness of edge portion 45 of solar cell module body 4.”

Yoda and Shingo both fail to disclose or suggest the above italicized features of amended claims 1 and 14. In particular, Yoda and Shingo fail to disclose or suggest that “*tip portions of the upper sealing region and the lower sealing region are formed in a bent fashion so as to be inclined toward a groove recess, and wherein a distance between said tip portions is substantially the same as or is somewhat less than a thickness of the edge portion of the solar cell module body or bodies*” as required by claims 1 and 14.

Moreover, the window sash edge face sealing of Meadow cannot be applied to a solar cell module of claims 1 and 14 for at least two reasons. First, the window sash edge face sealing of Meadow, which is not fitted into a frame, is not applicable to solar cell module body edge face sealings. Second, even if the window sash edge face sealing of Meadow were to be applied to a solar cell module body edge face sealing (which would be incorrect in any event), the resulting product still cannot achieve the inventions of claims 1 and 14.

Claim 19

Claim 19 requires that “*the edge face sealing member is substantially U-shaped and has first and second sidewalls which are connected to each other via a bottom wall, and wherein each of the sidewalls includes a distal end tip portion that is angled relative to a main body of the sidewall so that the tip portions angle inwardly toward and contact the solar cell module body when the solar cell module body and edge face sealing member are in a state where they have not yet been provided in the frame body.*” For example and without limitation, Fig. 3(a) of the instant application illustrate that the edge face sealing member (1) is substantially U-shaped and has first and second sidewalls (11, 12) which are connected to each other via a bottom wall (13), and wherein each of the sidewalls (11, 12) includes a distal end tip portion (11a, 12a) that is angled relative to a main body of the sidewall so that the tip portions (11a, 12a) angle inwardly toward and contact the solar cell module body (4) when the solar cell module body (4) and edge face sealing member (1) are in a state where they have not yet been provided in the frame body (5, 54).

Both Yoda and Shingo fail to disclose or suggest the aforesaid quoted features of claim 19. Moreover, Meadows and Yoda/Shingo are not properly combinable under Section 103(a). In particular, Yoda and Shingo relate to solar cells, whereas Meadows relates to a window sash.

One of ordinary skill in the solar cell art would not have looked to window sashes for teachings for use in solar cells. The two arts are non-analogous. Moreover, there is no suggestion or motivation for such a combination.

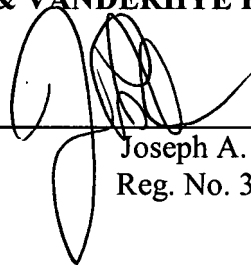
Conclusion

It is respectfully requested that all rejections be withdrawn. All claims are in condition for allowance. If any minor matter remains to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned with regard to the same.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Joseph A. Rhoa
Reg. No. 37,515

JAR:caj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100